Claims

We claim:

1. In a wireless communication system, a method comprising the steps of:

receiving a burst comprising payload and a synchronization field, wherein the synchronization field comprises a synchronization pattern;

comparing the received synchronization pattern against a first known synchronization pattern and a second known synchronization pattern;

if the received synchronization pattern is substantially similar to the first known synchronization pattern, processing the payload as voice; and

if the received synchronization pattern is substantially similar to the second known synchronization pattern, processing the payload as non-voice.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the first known synchronization pattern and the second known synchronization pattern are complements of each other.

3. In a wireless communication system, a method comprising the steps of:

receiving a burst comprising payload and a synchronization field, wherein the synchronization field comprises a synchronization pattern;

selecting a target synchronization pattern dependent on an operating mode;

comparing the received synchronization pattern against the target synchronization pattern; and

if the received synchronization pattern is substantially similar to the target synchronization pattern, processing the payload; otherwise, discarding the burst.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein the operating mode is the expectation of one of an inbound channel, outbound channel, forward channel, reverse channel, subscriber transmission, base station transmission, repeated transmission, and non-repeated transmission.

5. In a wireless communication system, a method comprising the steps of:

receiving a synchronization field, wherein the synchronization field comprises a synchronization pattern;

comparing the received synchronization pattern against a first known synchronization pattern and a second known synchronization pattern;

if the received synchronization pattern is substantially similar to the first known synchronization pattern, selecting a first operating mode; and

if the received synchronization pattern is substantially similar to the second known synchronization pattern, selecting a second operating mode.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein the first known synchronization pattern is defined by a synchronization pattern defined in ANSI.102.BAAA.

7. The method of claim 5 wherein the first and second known synchronization patterns have a common length.

8. The method of claim 5 wherein the first operating mode is processing a full-length burst, and the second operating mode is processing a shortened-length burst.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the shortened-length burst carries reverse channel signaling.